THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The criteria and the items of import against Special Import Licence are given in the Public Notice No. 64/(PN)/92-97 dated 21-10-1992, a copy of which is available in the Parliament Library.

(c) The benefit of Special Import Licence is allowed for Deemed exports, Export House, Trading House, Star Trading House and manufacturers who have ecquired internationally recognised certification of quality. The licences are freely tradeable.

Import of A.C. Cars and Coaches without Licence

3305. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to import air conditioned cars and AC coaches required for the development of tourism in the country without a licence; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details in this regard are contained in Ministry of Commerce Public Notice No. 100(PN)/92-93 dated 3-2-1993, copies of which are available in the Parliament library.

Production and Export of Tea

3306. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA :
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR :
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the tea industry has suffered a major setback over the last two years following break-up of the erstwhile USSR;

(b) if so, what are the total production and export of tea during the last three years alongwith the targets fixed;

(c) whether a tea convention was held recently to formulate a strategy for responding to the stiff competition in international market;

(d) what are the observations made in the convention alongwith Government's reaction thereon; and

(e) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government for pushing up tea exports to the hard currency areas ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The tea industry is facing problems on account of disintegration of erstwhile USSR and reduced purchase by CIS countries, which were major buyers of Indian tea.

(b) Data regarding production of tea is maintained on a calendar year basis. Production during the past 3 years vis-a-vis the targets has been as under :—

(Production Mn Kgs.)

Year	Target	Achievement
1990	720	720.34
1991	735	741.72 (estimated)
1992	765	703.93 (estimated)

Data regarding export performance vis-a-vis the targets is as under :—

Year	Export (Mn Kgs) Targets	Achievement
1990-91	210*	199.16
1991-92	210	210.39
1992-93	210	150.52 (April-Jan 1993)

*For the Calendar year 1990

(c) and (d) The Consultative Committee of Plantation Associations organised a Tea Convention during January, 1993. The convention reiterated India's commitment as a stable and reliable supplier of tea in the world market. It also expressed confidence in achieving the production target of 1000 Million Kilos for India by the turn of the century. The need for maintaining and improving the quality profile of Indian Tea was also emphasised.

The Government is conscious of the need to step up production of tea in India to cater to the increasing domestic demand and generate sufficient exportable surplus. Keeping in this in view a perspective plan to increase tea production to 1000 Million Kgs by 2000 AD has been drawn up by the Tea Board.

(e) Government has been encouraging diversification of tea export by sponsoring industry delegation to various countries. Trade protocols have also been entered into with some of the CIS countries including Russia. Other countries are being persuaded to by higher quantities of Indian tea indicating them the price competitive ness and quality of our tea.

Failure to meet Export Obligation by Exporters

3307. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 10,000 exporters have been served with show-cause notices (under the Advance Licensing Scheme) for failure to meet export obligations;

(b) what is the number of such exporters who have been declared defaulters;

(c) whether it is also a fact that more than 100 parties with foreign collaboration approvals, have been served with show cause notices for failure to meet their export obligations; and

(d) if so, whether in view of the chronic abuse of this Advance Licensing Scheme (for import of duty free raw materials) the Government would scrap the said Scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Advance licences are issued for importing, duty free, raw material, components, parts etc. which are necessary for manufacture of the export product. These licenses also impose export obligations which the licence holders have to discharge within specified period. Issue of these licences, imposition of export obligations, monitoring fulfillment of these obligations is a continuous process. Various Port Offices of the DGFT Organisation have been entrusted with this work. Whenever exporters fail in submitting documentary evidence regarding exports made, export proceeds realised, export obligations discharged, etc., show cause notices are issued. According to a preliminary assessment, such show cause notices have been issued in only about 6.14% cases (In 3020 cases out of 49248 cases examined). In addition in about 1.5% cases, exporters have been declared defaulters and in another about 1.5% cases enforcement action has been initiated against the exporters.